CHAPTER IV.

There are a hundred passengers on board the Astara—a large number of them Caucasians trading with Turkestan, and who will be with us all the way to the eastern provinces of the Celestial

As I am going to pass the night on deck, I return up the cabin stairs. The American is there just finishing the repacking of his case.

"May I ask how many teeth you are Importing into China in those cases? Eighteen hundred thousand, without

counting the wisdom teeth!" And Ephrinell began to laugh at the little joke, which he fired off on several

other occasions during the voyage. I left him and went on to the bridge between the paddle boxes.

A rather large deal case, covered with a tarpaulin, attracts my attention. It measures about a yard and a half in It height and a yard in width and depth. It has been placed here with the care required with these words in Russian, written on the side, "Glass-Fragile-Keep from Damp," and then directions, "Top-Bottom," which have been respected. And then there is the address, 'Mademoiselle Zinca Klork, Avenue Cha-Coua, Pekin, Petchili, China."

This Zinca Klork-her name showed it-ought to be a Roumanian, and she was taking advantage of this through train on the Grand Transasiatic to get glass forwarded Was this an article in request at the shops of the Middle King-How otherwise could the fair Celestials admire their almond eyes and their elaborate hair?

The bell rang and announced the 6 o'clock dinner. The dining room is for-Ephrinell nad installed himself nearly in the middle. There was a vacant seat near him; he beckoned to me to

Was it by chance? I know not; but the Englishwoman was seated on Ephrinell's left and talking to him. He introduced me.

"Miss Horatia Bluett," he said. Opposite I saw the French couple con scientiously studying the bill of fare. At the other end of the table, close to where the food came from, was the German with a ruddy face, fair hair, reddish beard, clumsy hands and a very long nose which reminded one of the probosci dean feature of the plantigrades.

"He is not late this time," said I te Ephrinell. "Do you know his name?" Baron Weissschnitzerdorfer." "And with that name is he going to

"To Pekin, like that Russian major who is sitting near the captain of the

Astara." I looked at the man indicated. He was about fifty years of age, of true Muscovite type, beard and hair turning

gray, face prepossessing.
"You said he was a major, Mr. Ephrinell?"

"Yes; a doctor in the Russian army and they call him Major Noltitz."

Evidently the American was some dis tance ahead of me, and yet he was not a reporter by profession. Ephrinell chat-ted with Miss Horatia Bluett, and I understood that there was an understanding between these two perfectly Anglo-

Saxon natures.

In fact, one was a traveler in teeth. and the other was a traveler in hair Miss Horatia Bluett represented an important firm in London, Messrs. Holmesannually exports two millions of female heads of hair.

The pitching now becomes very violent. The majority of the company cannot stand it. About thirty of the passengers have left the table for the deck. I hope the fresh air will do them good. We are now only a dozen in the dining room, including the captain, with whom Major Noltitz is quietly conversing. Ephrinell and Miss Bluett seem to be thoroughly accustomed to these inevitable incidents of navigation. The German baron drinks and eats as if he had taken up his quarters m s. Munich or Frankfort. his quarters in some bier-halle at

A little way off are the two Celes tials, whom I watch with curiosity. One is a young man of distinguished bearing, about twenty-five years old, of pleasant physiognomy, in spite of his yellow skin and narrow eyes. A few years spent in Europe have evidently Europeanized his manners and even his dress. His mustache is silky, his eye is intelligent, his hair is much more French than Chinese.

His companion, on the contrary, whom he always appears to be making fun of, is of the type of the true porcelain doll with the moving head; he is from fifty to fifty-five years old, like a monkey in the face, the top of his head half shaven, the pigtail down his back, the traditional costume, frock, vest, belt, baggy trousers, many-colored slippers; a China vase of the Green family. He, however, could hold out no longer, and after a tremendous pitch, accompanied by a long rattle of the crockery, he gave up and hurried on deck. And as he did so, the younger Chinaman shouted after him, "Cornaro! Cornaro!" at the same time holding out a little volume he had left on the table.

What was the meaning of this Italian word in an oriental mouth? Madame Caterna arose, very pale, and Monsieur Caterna, a model husband, followed her on deck.

CHAPTER V.

It is half-past ten when I sit down on one of the seats in the stern of the But with this increasing wind it is impossible for me to remain there refore, and make my way for-Under the bridge between the paddle boxes, the wind is so strong that I seek shelter among the packages cov-ered by the tarpaulin. Stretched on one of the boxes, wrapped in my rug, with my head resting against the tarpaulin, I shall soon be asleep.

After some time I am awakened by a curious noise. Whence comes this noise? I listen more attentively. It seems as though some one is snoring close to my

think. "He has got under the tarpaulin so badly in his improvised cabin."

By the light which filters down from propose to open?

the lower part of the binnacle, I see nothing. I listen again. The noise has ceased. I look about. There is no one on this part of the deck, for the secondclass passengers are all forward.

Then I must have been dreaming, and I resume my position, and try again to sleep. This time there is no mistake. The snoring has begun again, and I am sure it is coming from the case against which I am leaning my head. "Goodness!" I say. "There must be

an animal in here!" Now I am off on the trail. It must

be a wild animal on its way from some menagerie to some Sultan of Central

I light a wax vesta, and as I am sheltered from the wind, the flame keeps upright. By its light what do I read? The case containing the wild beast is the very one with the address:

Mademoiselle · Zinca Klork, Avenue Cha-Coua, Pekin, China.

Fragile, my wild beast! Keep from damp, my lion. Quite so! But for what does Miss Zinca Klork, this pretty Roumanian, want a wild beast sent in this way?

My thoughts bewilder me. I have a two-pound weight on each eyelid. I lie down along by the tarpaulin; my rug wraps me more closely, and I fall into a deep sleep. It is not yet daylight when I awake.

I rub my eyes, I rise, I go and lean against the rail. The Astara is not so lively, for the wind has shifted to the

The night is cold. I warm myself by walking about briskly for half an hour. I think no more of my wild beast. Suddenly remembrance returns to me.

I look at my watch. It is only 3 o'clock in the morning. I will go back to my place. And I do so with my head against the side of the case. I shut my eyes. Suddenly there is a new sound. This

time I am not mistaken. A half-stiffed sneeze shakes the side of the case. Never did an animal sneeze like that! Is it possible? A human being is hid-

den in this case and is being fraudulently carried by the Grand Transasiatic to the pretty Koumanian? But is it a man or a woman? It seems as though the sneeze has a masculine sound about it. The eastern horizon grows brighter. The clouds in the zenith are the first to color. The sun appears at last all watery with the mists of the sea.

I look; it is indeed the case addressed to Pekin. I notice that certain holes are pierced here and here, by which the air inside can be renewed. Perhaps two eyes are looking through these holes, watching what is going on outside.

At breakfast rally all the passengers whom the sea has not affected; the young Chinaman, Major Noltitz, Ephrinell, Miss Bluett, Monsieur Caterna, the Baron Feissschnitzerdorfer, and seven or eight other passengers. I am careful not to let the American into the secret

About noon the land is reported to the eastward, a low, yellowish land, with no rocky margin, but a few sand hills in the neighborhood of Krasnovodsk. In an hour we are in sight of Uzun

Ada, and twenty-seven minutes afterward set foot in Asia.

CHAPTER VI.

As may be imagined, it hardly takes an hour to see Uzun Ada, the name of which means Long Island. It is almost Holme, to whom the Celestial Empire a town, but a modern town, traced with a square, drawn with a line on a large carpet of yellow sand.

As the train starts at four o'clock this afternoon, I must telegraph to the Twentieth Century, by the Caspian cable, that I am at my post at the Uzun Ada station. That done, I can see if I

can pick up anything worth reporting.

Nothing is more simple. It consists in opening an account with those of my companions with whom I may have to do during the journey. That is my custom, I always find it answer, and while waiting for the unknown, I write down the known in my pocketbook, with a number to distinguis

1. Fulk Ephrinell, American. Miss Horatia Bluett, English. 3. Major Noltitz, Russian.

4. Monsieur Caterna, French. 5. Madame Caterna, French. 6. Baron Weissschnitzerdorfer. Ger

man. As to the Chinese, they will have a number later on when I have made up my mind about them. As to the individual in the box, I intend to enter into communication with him, or her, and to be of assistance in that quarter if I can do so without betraying the

secret. The train is already marshaled in the station. It is composed of first and second-class cars, a restaurant car and two baggage vans

Russians will take us up to the frontier of Turkestan, and Chinese will take us through China. But there is one representative of the company who will not leave his post, and that is Popof, our head guard, a true Russian of soldierly bearing, hairy and bearded, with a fold-ed overcoat and Muscovite cap. I intend to talk a good deal with this gallant follow. For ten years he has been on the Transcaspian between Uzun Ada and the Pamirs, and during the last month he has been all along the line to Pekin. I call him No. 7 in my note-book

It occurs to me to have a look at the mysterious box. Has it not a right to be so called? Yes, certainly. I must really find out where it has been put and how to get at it easily.

The famous box was still on the plat form. In looking at it closely I observe that air holes have been bored on each of its sides, and that on one side it has two panels, one of which can be made to slide on the other from the inside. And I am led to think that the prisoner has had it made so in order that he can, if necessary, leave his prison—probably during the night.

Just now the porters are beginning to lift the box. I have the satisfaction of seeing that they attend to the direct tions inscribed on it. It is placed with great care near the entrance to the van, the side with the panels outward, as if between the cases, and he will not do it were the door of a cupboard. And is not the box a cupboard-a cupboard I

"There it is all right?" said one of the porters, looking to see that the case was as it should be, top where top should be, and so on.

"There is no fear of its moving," said another porter; "the glass will reach Pekin all right, unless the train runs off the metals.' The American came up to me and took

last look at his stock of incisors, molars and canines. You know, Monsieur Bombarnac," he said to me, "that the passengers are

going to dine at the Hotel du Czar before the departure of the train. It is time now. Will you come with me?" "I follow you." The dinner ends ten minutes before

the time fixed for our departure. The bell rings and we all make a move for the train, the engine of which is blowing off steam. The Baron Weissschnitzerdorfer is not

behind hand this time. On the contrary, it is the train this time which is five minutes late in starting; and the German has begun to complain, to chafe and to threaten to sue the company for dam-Ten thousand roubles-not a penny less!-if it causes him to fail. Fail in what, considering that he is go-

At length the last shrick of the whis tle cleaves the air; the cars begin to move, and a loud cheer salutes the departure of the Grand Transasiatic express.

For fifteen years our guard had been in the Transcaspian service. He knows the country up to the Chinese frontier, and five or six times already he has been over the whole line known as the Grand Transasiatic.

I asked him if he knew anything of our fellow travelers. I meant those who were going through to China, and in the first place of Major Noltitz.

"The major," said Popof, "has lived a long time in the Turkestan provinces, and he is going to Pekin to organize the staff of a hospital for our compatriots, with the permission of the Czar, of course.

"I like this Major Noltitz," I said, "and I hope to make his acquaintance very soon. And these two Chinese, do you know them?" "Not in the least, Monsieur Bombar

nac; all I know is the name on the lug-

gage." "What is that?" "The younger man's name is Pan-Chao, the elder's is Tio-King. Probably they have been traveling in Europe for some years. As to saying where they from, I cannot. I imagine that

for he is accompanied by his doctor." "And the two French people, that cou ple so affectionate," I asked. "Who are they?"

Pan-Chao belongs to some rich family,

"Stage people who are going to a the ater in Shanghai, where they have an engagement at the French theater." That is capital. I will talk about the

theater, and behind the scenes, and such matters, and I shall soon make the acgauintance of the cheery comedian and his charming wife. As to a certain scornful gentleman

aboard, our guide knew nothing beyond folded together and laid away .-- Cor. that his luggage bore the address in full: Sir Francis Trevellyan, Trevellyan Hall, Trevellyanshire.

"A gentleman who does not answer when he is spoken to," added Popof. "Now we get to the German," sald I. Baron Weissschnitzerdorfer?"

"He is on a trip round the world." "A trip round the world?"

"In thirty-nine days." And so after Mrs. Bisland, who did the famous tour in seventy-three days, and Citizen George Francis Train, who did it in seventy, this German was attempting to do it in thirty-nine?

"He will never do it!" I exclaimed. "Why not?" asked Popof. "Because he is always late." (To be continued.)

"PET" AVERSIONS.

Most Folk Have Unreasonable Dis-

likes. "We are all born with an aversion to something, and this aversion is a thing we can no more direct than we can fly by merely beating on the atmosphere with our hands," George Mc-

Pherson informs me. "History is rich in the account of such instances. There is Vincent, the painter, who would faint if the odor of a rose was wafted to his nostrils, and the great German sportsman, Vaugheim, would become positively ill if he even saw a bit of roast pig. These aversions, often so entirely unaccountable, are curious things to study. I became somewhat interested in the subject a year or so ago, and have since that time been quietly adding to my store of information on this somewhat unusual topic by personal inquiries among my friends and acquaintances.

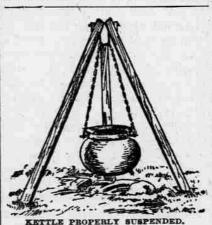
"Not one of them did I find without his pet aversion, for the existence of which he could give no good reason. Generally the aversion was toward some kind of food, but not always. One hated the color of blue, and nothing depressed him more than being in the company of people who were, for the most part, garbed in clothes of this hue. Another couldn't listen to to such a degree that he couldn't remain in the room where there was or early fall market, if she is not to

"None of the men who had these touch a drop of milk or cream without the range she can be plumped up so looked quite so appetizing as a glass of good rich cream. Often he had tried to partake of it, but without success. Parental influence will, of course, be urged as the reason for these aversions, but in the case of the man who couldn't touch milk or cream his mother and father were both very fond of milk, and another friend of mine who couldn't eat a strawberry had parents who simply loved them.' -St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Trying to Hedge. Wife-John, I'd like to have a short talk with you after breakfast. Husband-It's no use, Mary. short myself.



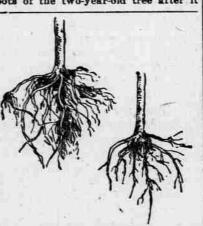
The Hanging of the Kettle. There are many farmers in need of something convenient to hang a large kettle on. Many support the kettle on three stones, which is unsatisfactory, especially if the heat cracks one stone and the kettle tips over. The accompanying cut is drawn from a photograph I took recently on a neighboring farm, and it comes very near to explaining itself. The device consists of three moderately heavy pieces of wood for legs, which are attached together at the top by a heavy bolt. Some six or eight inches below the union of the three legs a heavy clevis is secured to the middle leg. From this clevis two chains extend downward to proper distance and double backward to fasten on to the ears of the kettle.



which then hangs suspended. length of the legs will depend on convenience and the size of the kettle they are to support. Those shown in the cut are eleven feet in length and were made from medium sized well seasoned fence rails. When the derrick is not in use it can be lowered, Orange Judd Farmer.

Pruning Roots of Trees.

While there may be merit in the method of planting known as the Stringfellow plan, which provides for cutting away most of the roots of the young tree as well as the top, it is a plan which does not work well with all species of trees nor in all soils. As a result the average orchardist will stick to the best of the old methods which provides for a cutting back of the top so as to form a proper head and balancing the roots somewhat after the manner of the lower cut in the illustration. The upper cut shows the roots of the two-year-old tree after it



HOW ROOTS ARE PRUNED

is dug in the nursery and the lower drawing shows how all the mass of fibrous roots, which would die anyway after exposure to the sun, have been cut away and most of the longer roots shortened. It is easier to plant a tree prepared in this manner and strong young rootlets will form from the ends of the roots which were cut, forming a mass of roots during the one growing season following planting which will give the young tree a good start in life.-Indianapolis News.

Fate of the Old Hen.

After the old hen has raised her crop of chicks, she is not a fit subject the music of a harp without becoming for the carcass market. Turn her out irritated, while a third detested lilies on the range to get strong and in good shape to be fattened for the summer be carried through another winter. It will cost little or nothing to feed her aversions understood why he had through the coming months and with them. One man told me he couldn't a few months or even two months on becoming sick, yet he thought nothing as to fatten at the smallest possible expense, and the carcass will be reasonably tender and fairly satisfactory to the buyer. If she is not to be set again don't be in a hurry to take her away from the chicks. Let her run with them as long as they will stay with her, for she can do no harm, and may be able to help them more or less even though they may be half-grown. Don't be too quick to say the old hen is no longer useful or profitable.

> Perserving the Eggs. By the water glass method eggs may

e preserved, and be in good condition for use several months later, although they will not pass as strictly fresh The procedure is as follows: eggs. Obtain the water glass from the drug- in the nest

gist and dilute one pint of it with nine pints of water. Use a vessel of some kind not metal. The old-fashioned ideal. Have the eggs fresh, put them in daily and see that the shells are not cracked. Put the water glass solution in the crock and then ppt in the eggs, seeing that the eggs are completely covered with the solution at all times. When the eggs are taken out of the wipe them dry and they are ready for

Growth of Agriculture. According to the statistical abstract of the United States, issued from the Department of Commerce and Labor, there were, in 1900, 5,739,657 farms in this country, an increase of 1,175,016 in ten years. There were engaged in agriculture, in 1900, 10,438,219 persons, while in 1890 there were 8,565,926, an increase of 1,872,293. The increase in the total population for the period stated was 13,071,484, so of this increase over 14 per cent must have engaged in farming.

The value of farms and farm property increased from \$16,082,267,689 in 1890 to \$20,514,001,838 in 1900, a difference of \$4,431,734,149. The value of farm products increased \$1,304,070,-252, the value in 1900 being \$3,764,177,-706. This does not include value of products not fed to live stock.

The total number of acres in farms in 1900 was 838,591,774, the average number of acres to a farm being 146.2, while in 1890 it was 136.5. The per cent of improved farm land was decreased 8 per cent in the last ten

The greatest increase in the number of farms has been in the States of Colorado, Arizona, Idaho, Montana and New Mexico.

In the production of corn and wheat there has been a corresponding increase. In 1890 there were 1,489,970,-000 bushels produced and in 1900 2,105,102,516 bushels, while of wheat in 1890 the crop was 399,262,000 bushels and it increased to 522,229,505 bushels in 1900.

Thus it will be seen that whatever the gain in commerce and manufacthat equal facilities be granted to tures the relative gain in farming has goods shipped by all steamship lines, held its own. Agriculture, too, has and charged that under the old manbeen lifted to a higher plane than 10r- agement—that is, before the United merly. It is no longer said that "any- States gained control of the road body can farm." Agriculture is rapidly various lines were discriminated attaining the dignity of a profession,

Using Free Helps.

Frequent reference has been made to the advantages of using the State experiment stations, which land own- invited "all the nations of the earth ers in each State help support, hence to take part in the commemoration" have an undoubted right to ask their of the 300th anniversary of the first help when needed. The director of one English settlement in America, at of the State stations told the writer Jamestown, "by sending their naval not long ago that he hoped the sub-vessels to the said celebration and by ject might not be urged too hard, else making such representations of their the stations might be in the same trou- military organizations as may be propble he was with a farmer in his er." The festivities are to last from State. This farmer makes it his busi- May to November, 1907, and are deness to send to the State station a scribed as "an international naval, milsample of everything he buys for the farm in the way of stock food and Fitzbugh Lee, the president of the fertilizers and has profited greatly by managers of the exposition, at the time the plan. If he is attracted to a cer- of his death, was engaged in persuadtain stock food, for example, he will ing the various States to be representbuy the smallest purchasable quantity ed at the exposition in some official and send a liberal sample to the State way. experiment station and obtain its opinlon as to its worth. He bases further purchases on the report received from at Brown University, assisted in dethe station and by this plan saves fending some lower classmen from unmany dollars. Do thou likewise.

the station men too much work. Some him about the incident, he humorously of them need more work, while the replied, "I remember nothing of my majority of them will be more than heroic conduct in the Gordon case. But glad to be of use to you, for they will my recollection of everything in those see the beginning of an era of useful- far-off days is dim, and heroism was ness which has hitherto been denied the stations and solely because the if I hadn't saved somebody's life. Now worst enemies of the institutions have I only save a nation now and then." been the very people they were intend. Secretary Hay, just before he replied ed to help—the farmers. Try the plan to the letter, must have been reading the next time you buy grain or mixed some Washington correspondent's defeeds for the stock. You will learn scription of how he had prevented the much and save more.

As to the Strawberry.

toes or beans, sowing crimson clover in midsummer and plowing under the rather than from Berlin. following spring, when the ground is again set to strawberries.

Some of our neighbors go us a year better and sow corn the year following the turning under of the crimson clover, putting the berry plants out the spring following the corn and permitting the ground to lie fallow during the winter. The plan works well, though we dislike the idea of not having the ground covered during the winter. However, as this may be a matter of personal opinion, we have no comment to make beyond the one that we like our plan best and consider it the most profitable one.

Hen on Goose Eggs. Early in spring give a hen four to six eggs, according to her size. A large eggs in a warm nest. Set eggs on the ground if possible and use some straw



Self-government is gradually developing in the Philippines. In 1902 Congress passed a law which provided that a census of the population of the islands should be taken, and that withcrockery three or four gallon jars are in two years after the completion of the census a representative popular assembly should be elected. The census was completed on March 27th of the present year, and on that day Governor Wright issued a proclamation fixing March 27, 1907, as the date for the first general Filipino election. The solution riase them in clean water, legislative body to be chosen is to contain between 50 and 100 members, elected by popular vote, and is to form, jointly with the Philippine Commission, the two-chambered legislature of the new government. This legislature, besides making laws, is to elect two commissioners to represent them in Washington. It is expected that these commissioners will be allowed to sit in the American Congress much as the territorial delegates now have seats there.

> Moroccan affairs continue to hold an important place in international discussion. The desire of Germany, as stated in a memorandum to the United States, is for the maintenance of the "open door" in Morocco, for the preservation of the status quo, and for the protection of the commercial interests of all trading nations. It is pointed out, however, on the other hand, that the Anglo-French agreement of April, 1904, expressly declared for the principle of commercial freedom. April 6th, King Edward, on his way to join Queen Alexandra at Marseilles, paid a brief visit to President Loubet at Paris, and the incident, following so soon upon the call of Emperor William at Tangiers, was interpreted by the French press as a reaffirmation of the Anglo-French agreement.

A reduction in freight rates on the Panama railway was suggested to Seeretary Taft by the ministers in Washington of the republics in Central America and on the west coast of South America. They said that it cost much more to ship goods to New York by way of this railway than to send the same goods to London by the Straight of Magellan. They also asked against. Secretary Taft promised that the discriminations would cease at once.

The President has, by proclamation, itary and marine celebration."

John Hay, when an undergraduate fair treatment in a hazing episode: Do not be afraid that you will give but when a classmate recently wrote my daily habit. I couldn't sleep nights dismemberment of China.

Chinese Neutrality.-It has been of-In some cases and with some varie ficially disclosed at Washington that ties it will pay to crop the same bed of the movement in February, 1904, for strawberries two or even three years, concerted action by the neutral powers although most growers go to the other to induce the belligerents in the far extreme and take but one crop and do East to respect the neutrality of China not use the same soil again for berries was made by the United States at the until the third year. Possibly this is initiative of Germany. The reason carrying the rotation too far. We plan that this fact was not made known at to set the berry plants after a crop the time, it is stated, was that the of corn, fruit them two years and then German Emperor felt that the suggesplow under and set to tomatoes, pota- tion would be more certain to be adopted if it emanated from Washington

> With the beginning of the new administration for the second time in succession there is no change of party control, whereas from Garfield's inauguration to McKinley's there was every time an alternation from party to party, which made the retiring Prestdent seem almost like a captive chief gracing the triumph of a conqueror.

In the Sunday schools of the United States there are fewer pupils by about five millions than the number enrolled in the public schools. Putting the fact in another form, of every three girls and boys who attend the day schools, only two go to Sunday school, It would be a delicate task to apportion the responsibility for this state of Cochin hen can incubate six or seven affairs; but it is fair to suggest that when children stay away from the public schools their parents are held responsible.